General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 March 2009

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 114 (*i*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.39/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

63/144. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, in which it invited various specialized agencies as well as other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant international financial institutions to join in the efforts towards realizing the goals and objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling further the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Expressing its support for the plans and programmes of the Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Welcoming the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to consolidate ties with the United Nations system and relevant international and regional organizations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 61/12 of 13 November 2006,[2] and expresses satisfaction at the enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

2. *Takes note* of the Herat Declaration, adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Herat, Afghanistan, on 20 October 2007, in which the Council reaffirmed its commitment to establish a free-trade area in the Economic Cooperation Organization region by 2015 as a priority task, extended the Programme of Action

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/63/228-S/2008/531 and Corr.1, sect. II.

for the Economic Cooperation Organization Decade of Transport and Communications, and called for joint action for human resources development, poverty alleviation and disaster mitigation and management;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the continuation and expansion of areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, including the provision of financial and technical assistance for pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of projects, consultancy services, workshops and training courses and project management services by specialized agencies of the United Nations, in the ongoing as well as future activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

4. *Appreciates* the technical and financial assistance extended by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as other international and regional organizations, to the Economic Cooperation Organization for its economic development programmes and projects, and encourages them to continue to support its activities;

5. *Calls for* a further increase in the technical assistance of the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which are at various levels of development and some of which are in the process of acceding to the World Trade Organization, with a view to expanding their intra- and interregional trade, which may promote their sustainable economic development goals, including trade liberalization, leading to regional and global integration;

6. *Welcomes* the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization, and recommends continuation of their joint programmes to strengthen the institutional infrastructure to overcome the technical barriers to trade and promote sanitary and phytosanitary measures to be taken by the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

7. *Also welcomes* the initiative to sign a trilateral agreement between the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for joint projects under the Asian Highway Network and Trans-Asian Railway Network initiatives of the Commission, as well as the implementation of the Economic Cooperation Organization Transit Transport Framework Agreement and the Programme of Action for the Economic Cooperation Organization Decade of Transport and Communications, and invites the donor institutions and countries to support the projects;

8. *Takes note* of progress on the Istanbul-Almaty container and passenger train project of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and calls upon the relevant United Nations agencies to join the Organization's efforts to revitalize the China-Middle East-Europe railway corridor, providing an uninterrupted railway connection between China and Europe through the Economic Cooperation Organization region;

9. *Also takes note* of the Tashkent Declaration on the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia,[3] and welcomes coordination between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Special Programme;

[3] A/53/96, annex II.

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the initiative of the Economic Cooperation Organization to launch a demonstration train on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route as well as on the route through Afghanistan, and calls upon the relevant regional and international institutions to assist the Organization in operationalizing the routes by making up the missing links;

11. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to develop energy trade in the region in cooperation with international organizations, especially the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and requests their continued support for the preparation and efficient implementation of regional programmes on energy efficiency and conservation;

12. *Also appreciates* the holding of the donor conference in Turkey on 8 May 2008 in support of the regional programme of the Economic Cooperation Organization for food security, invites the relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and donor agencies to assist in the efficient implementation of the programme, and calls for their support for the technical cooperation programme for strengthening seed supply in the region;

13. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Disasters, and invites United Nations institutions and international donors and financial institutions to extend their support for the further development of the Centre and to assist member States in developing their early warning systems and their capacity for timely response and rehabilitation, with a view to reducing human casualties and the socio-economic impact of natural disasters;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the priority given by the Economic Cooperation Organization to Millennium Development Goals related to child mortality, maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, and recommends that United Nations agencies, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, assist the Economic Cooperation Organization in preparing an analytical regional report on the health-related Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Calls for* the strengthening of the technical assistance provided by the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, to the Economic Cooperation Organization plan of action for cooperation on the environment, especially in such priority areas as the transfer of technology and the implementation of strategic plans and projects;

16. *Notes with satisfaction* the adoption of the workplan on biodiversity in the Economic Cooperation Organization region aimed at achieving, with the assistance of the relevant United Nations bodies, the common objectives of the global 2010 biodiversity target and ensuring the sustainable use of biological and genetic resources as well as equitable sharing of the resulting benefits;

17. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization and its member States in combating the production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and calls for increased cooperation between the Organization and relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the European Commission and the international community, and also calls for further exploration of the capacity of the Economic Cooperation Organization to effectively combat the production of and trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic drugs;

18. *Also appreciates* the initiatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization to combat transnational crime, and encourages closer collaboration between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the prevention of corruption and money-laundering;

19. *Welcomes* the memorandums of understanding between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the International Road Transport Union as well as the exchange of notes verbales between the Organization and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, and calls for the effective implementation of those agreements;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made by the Economic Cooperation Organization in expanding external relations, especially strengthening relations with regional peers and other international organizations;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

69th plenary meeting
15 December 2008